THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are 112 level crossings qualifying for replacement with Road Over/Under Bridges on cost sharing basis in Tamil Nadu.

(b) 58 works have already been sanctioned and 54 are yet to be sanctioned.

(c) The proposals are included in Railways Works Programme if sponsored by the State Govt. duly fulfilling certain pre-requisites and assigned priority subject to the proposals being otherwise found feasible.

(d) Only at one level crossing No. 36, Km. 62/2-3 on Karur-Tiruchchirappalli section.

Increase in Rail Passengers

4377. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the percentage of increase in rail passengers during the last three years;

(b) what was the percentage of addition to passenger train services during the corresponding period; and

(c) what are Government's plans to bridge the gap between the increase in passengers and addition to passenger train services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The percentage of increase in rail passengers (number of passengers originating) as well as the percentage of addition to passenger train services during the last three years are given below :—

	1995-96	1998-99	%age increase
No. of passengers originating (in millions)	4018	4411	9.8%
No. of passenger trains run daily	7,525	8,195	8.9%

(c) In order to bridge the gap, Railways extend the existing trains, increase the frequency of non-daily trains and augment the loads of the trains to the extent feasible and justified. These measures provide additional carrying capacity to meet the traffic demand.